

**In his book [The Underground Guide to Teenage Sexuality](#), Michael J. Basso wrote the following helpful responses to pressure lines:**

- "If you love me, you'll have sex with me/prove it."  
**Response:** "If you love me, you'll stop trying to make me do something I don't want to do."  
"It you love me, you'll prove it by respecting my feelings."
  
- "If you won't have sex with me, I don't want to go out with you anymore."  
**Response:** "If you are only with me because you want sex, I guess our relationship really means nothing to you." "If you're going to make threats, maybe we should see other people."
  
- "If you won't have sex with me, I'll find someone who will."  
**Response:** "I guess our relationship means nothing to you if you are already looking for someone else."  
"I'm not a sex toy for you to use. If that's all I am to you, then you should find someone else."
  
- "Don't be afraid, the first time is always scary."  
**Response:** "I'm not afraid. I'm standing up for what I believe is right."
  
- "Everybody has sex."  
**Response:** "I don't care about everybody. I care about this body. I'm responsible for me."
  
- "It's a natural part of life."  
**Response:** "So is pregnancy, disease, and death, and I'm not ready for those things either."  
"It may be natural, but it's not time."
  
- "You want it as much as I do."  
**Response:** "I want to stand up for what I believe in even more."  
"No I don't. Aren't you listening to me?"
  
- "We had sex before. What's the problem now?"  
**Response:** "The problem is that I did something I didn't want to do and now I regret it."  
"I'm learning from my mistakes."  
"I changed my mind. I have too much I want to do without risking it all again."
  
- "Just relax and let your feelings go."  
**Response:** "My feelings won't last nearly as long as pregnancy/STDs/AIDS."  
"My feelings are telling me to go home."  
"A moment of passion can change my future forever."
  
- "Don't worry. I've got a condom."  
**Response:** "And I've got my feelings. Don't they matter to you?"  
"Condoms aren't 100% effective; abstinence is." ( Ed. Note: Condoms fail 32% of the time )

- "Don't worry. Nothing will happen."  
**Response:** "What will happen is I'll be giving up my principles for your pleasure. I'm my own person."  
 "You can't guarantee that nothing will happen. But I can, by not having sex."
  
- "Don't you want to do it at least once to see what it's like?"  
**Response:** "The day will come when I'm ready."  
 "I see what pregnancy/parenthood/STDs/AIDS is like; and I don't like it!"
  
- "You got me all excited now."  
**Response:** "I don't owe you anything. If you're easily this excited, maybe we should just cool it for a while."
  
- "Don't worry. No one will know."  
**Response:** "I'll know."
  
- "I want to marry you; you know we're going to get married."  
**Response:** "If and when that day comes, we can discuss it then."  
 "What does marriage later have to do with sex now?"
  
- "I'll always love you. Let me share this with you."  
**Response:** "If you love me, honor me; respect my feelings."
  
- "Making love will only make our love stronger."  
**Response:** "Sex doesn't make love."  
 "Sex doesn't make a relationship stronger, it complicates it."

**Ed. Note: Sex often prolongs a bad relationship or destroys a good relationship**